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XSS-10 team earns national recognition

by Jill Bohn, AFRL Public Affairs

WRIGHT-PATTERSON AIR FORCE BASE, Ohio — The Air Force Research Laboratory/Boeing XSS-10 Team has been nationally honored by the American Institute of Aeronautics and Astronautics (AIAA).

The team has been awarded the Space Systems Technical Team Award for 2003, which is presented to recognize outstanding achievements in the architecture, analysis, design and implementation of space systems. The award will be presented in September 24 at the AIAA Space 2003 Convention, Long Beach, Calif.

AFRL's Space Vehicles Directorate, Kirtland Air Force Base, N.M., together with Air Force Space Command developed the 65-pound XSS-10. The first on-orbit experimental micro-satellite, with a program valued at \$100 million, launched aboard a Boeing Delta II rocket Jan. 29, from Cape Canaveral Air Force Station, Fla. During its 20-hour mission, the XSS-10 successfully performed a series of on orbit maneuvers around the second stage of the Delta II. Other key contractor team members were Boeing Rocketdyne, Octant Technologies, Jackson and Tull, and Swales Aerospace.

"It is an honor for the XSS-10 team to be recognized with the prestigious AIAA award," said Thom Davis, XSS-10 program manager. "The success of the XSS-10 flight demonstration is the first step in applying micro-satellite technology to military space missions and paves the way for more ambitious experiments on XSS-11 and future programs."

The American Institute of Aeronautics and Astronautics, and its predecessors, have been the principal society of the aerospace engineer and scientist for more than 70 years. @